

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 7, 2014
Student Senate Room, LSU Student Union



Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

1. Kevin L. Cope (President, English)
2. Ken McMillin (Vice-President, Animal Science)
3. Bill Daly (Past President, Chemistry)
4. Joan King (Secretary, Food Science)
5. Mandi Lopez (Member-at-Large, Vet Science.)
6. Suresh Rai (Member-at-Large, Elect. & Computer Eng.)
7. Fabio DelPiero (Member-at-Large, Pathobiol Sci)

Parliamentarian: Louay Mohammed

Senators present (X = Present; A = Alternate; P = Proxy):

1 X Aghazadeh, Fereydoun (Mech Eng/Eng)	20 X Dorian Dorado (Foreign Lan Lit/HSS)	39 X Carl Motsenbocker (Horticult/Ag)
2 X Fakhri Al-Bagdadi (Comp. Biomed Sci/Vet)	21 X Susan Eades (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	40 X Seth Orgel (Music/Music Dramatic Arts)
3 X Austin Allen (Landscape Arch./AD)	22 X Kristin Gansle (Education/HSS)	41 X Jim Ottea (Entomology/Agri
4 X Reid Bates (SHWRD/HSE)	23 P Jeff Gillespie (Ag Econ/Ag)	42 X Steven Pomarico (Biological Sci/Sci)
5 X Jennifer Baumgartner (Child Family/HSE)	24 X Gundela Hachmann (Foreign Lang Lit./HHS)	43 X Suresh Rai (EE and Comp/Eng)
6 Emily Beasley (Kinesiology)	25 Jong Hahn (Plant Path/Ag)	44 X Judith Rhodes (Social Work/HSS)
7 X Lillian Bridwell-Bowles (English/HSS)	26 A Wes Harrison (AGEC/Ag)	45 X Jeffrey Roland (Philos Rel Studies/HSS)
8 X Konstantin Busch (EE & Comp Sci/Eng)	27 X Stuart Irvine (Philos Relig/HHS)	46 P Judith Schiebout (Geology/Science)
9 X John Caprio (Bio Sci/Sci)	28 X Sherif Ishak (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)	47 X Andrew Schwarz (Info Sys Dec Sci/Bus)
10 P Lauren Coates (Enlgish/HSE)	29 X Joan King (Food Sci/Ag)	48 X Stephen Shipman (Math/Science)
11 X Kevin Cope (English/HSS)	30 X Mandi Lopez (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	49 Alan Sikes (Theater/Music Dramatic Arts)
12 Belinda Davis (Poly Sci/HSS)	31 X Ron Malone (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)	50 X Larry Smilinsky (Math/Sci)
13 X William Daly (Chemistry/Sci)	32 Kenneth Kip Matthews (Physics Astro/Sci)	51 Linda Smith Griffin (Libraries/Lib)
14 X Fabio Del Piero (Pathobiol Sci)	33 X Andrew Maverick Chemistry/Sci)	52 X Judith Sylvester (Mass Com/Mass Com)
15 X Charles Delzell (Math/Sci)	34 Alison McFarland (Music/Music and DA)	53 X Ramachandran Vaidyanathan (EE Comp/Eng
16 X Margaret Denny (Education/Ed)	35 Jean McGuire (Management/Bus)	54 X Arend Van Gemmert (Kinesiology/HHS)
17 X John DiTusa (Phys Astron/Sci)	36 X Ken McMillin (Animal Sci/Ag)	55 Gregory Watson (Architecture/AD)
18 X Neila Donovan (COMD/HHS)	37 Jacquelyn Sue Moffit (Acct/Business)	56 X Yejun Wu (Library Information Sci/Lib)
19 X David Donze (Biological Sciences/Sci)	38 P Louay Mohammed (Civil and Environ Eng/Eng)	57 Jun Zou (Interior Design/AD)

Guests:

Susan Bell	Ann Nardo	Margaret Coffey	Roxanne Berthelot	Cliff Vannoy
Deanna Narveson	Ernie Ballard	Gil Reeve	Stuart Bell	Amaris D. Guzman
Robert Doolos	Charles Isbell	Casey Coughlin	Margaret Coffey	

Consideration of the Minutes from September 4, 2014

Motion by Fereydoun Aghazadeh, seconded by many.

Approved unanimously with potential corrections.

President's Report

1. Colleagues expressed concern on standards of enforcement in student advocacy, for instance academic offenses have not been as dramatically enforced as in the past. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with representatives from the Dean of Students office and Student Advocacy. Representatives from that office will report to the Faculty Senate in November.
2. A document was received by those engaged in student activities on advising clubs with a list of requirements of the advisors. This issue was brought to the Provost and a committee is being constituted to revamp it and we are contacting the Office of Risk Management on this issue to see how the document got in this shape.
3. All but one college has elected their senators. The constitution says that we can use outgoing senators to implement the elections in their colleges. We will try this in the coming year.
4. One of our assistants brought up an issue of premium increases for graduates student insurance. This is under investigation.
5. A good development has occurred in international recruitment and activities. The university had a visit from two groups for recruitment of international students, who met with faculty, administration, and other interest groups. The issue is coming from Academic Affairs. The International Education committee is revamped and revitalized and meeting with frequency.

6. Another committee became functional on the new Master Plan. It is a well constituted committee which held its first meeting this past week. They are looking at a better vision for what the campus may be.
7. President Alexander said the system will take a position on the St. George succession movement. The official position of the campus will be not to partition the university into separate cities.
8. There have been scandalous accounting issues for OGB. Senator Jon Bel Edwards set up a hearing committee meeting on the issue. The rooms were full and the meeting went until late in the day. The result is the push back of the date of implementation and choice. At the Claiborne building there were numerous people overflowing on the first floor.
9. The Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates meeting was held this past Saturday in Alexandria. Senator John Bell Edwards spoke. The Board of Regents Commissioner Candidates came to the meeting and they also met with four faculty leaders. These candidates seemed to be well qualified and cognizant of the value of faculty input.
10. The FSEC newsletter is back in publication and has been reflagged as a statewide Faculty Senate newsletter.

Q&A Summary:

Joan King

I recommend that there be a new classroom building in the new master plan.

Kevin Cope

That issue was brought up at the meeting.

Presentation by United Way Chairperson Susan Bell

Coach Paul Mainieri is the chair. The portals open on September 10th. There are placards at the entrances to campus. You must reenroll each year even if you have given in the past. Coach Mainieri has offered incentives for donors. There is a dug out experience if you donate \$2,500. You tour the facilities, stay in the dugout, and throw first pitch. This is for you and one other person. For \$1,500 you sit behind home plate and get a tour of facilities for four guests. For \$1,000 you get personally signed baseball memorabilia. Any department who has a 30% donation rate together will receive a tour of the new facilities. Last year the goal was \$75,000 and we received about \$85,000 on campus. They received the Bets of the Best award last year. We raised the goal to \$90,000 this year. Brandon Smith said that the reason there was a participation goal this year is that although we met our goal we only had a participation rate of about 3% faculty and staff. The reason we participate is that several organizations come to us to do some sort of campaign but we cannot do that, but United Way allows us to touch more people.

Q&A Summary:

None.

Presentation by Anna Nardo, Spokesperson for LSUnited

LSUnited got its start as a result of a Faculty Senate committee. In 2010 they formed a local chapter in association with NEA and LAE, but have evolved into an independent organization focused on employment, salary, benefits and job security for faculty and graduate students. They bring information to the Board of Supervisors, the state legislature and the public. They work with the Faculty Senate on matters for academic governance and with the local AAUP on matters pertaining to academic freedom, but that is not their focus. They work with LAE but are no longer an affiliate. They have held retirement forums, addressed state legislative committees, ran phone and email campaigns to lobby the state legislature, lobby the Board of Supervisors at their monthly meetings, met personally with President Alexander and A.G. Monaco for several items. They have been involved in three improvements in faculty status, raises, 6.2% employer contribution to the UAB, and revision of PS-36 NT on behalf of instructors to gain the right to three year contracts. For four years LSUnited has been a consistent vocal organization to help faculty. She asked faculty to join them. They are a flexible and fluid organization adapting to higher education. All faculty of all ranks are welcomed, full and part time. Dues for professors are \$10 for academic year. If you have no money you can still join.

Q&A Summary:

None.

Presentation on services offered by the LSU Veterinary Hospital by Margaret Coffey

They are excited about their mission. They showed a brief video shown about the hospital. There are 45 board specialists and interns and 40 residents. There are 120 students at the hospital and 65 staff. They treat all species all of the time, 24 hours a day. They are still open during vacations and hurricanes. They don't have a concierge service, but when you bring your animal in you will see a board specialist and your case will be evaluated by 10 to 15 veterinarians. They have trained 80% of the veterinarians in the state. There was a handout given concerning a 10% discount for all employees and students at LSU. They now have primary care at LSU for small pets. They had it before for equine. They are focusing on just the LSU community. They have cross functional veterinarians on their team and they asked them what

market they should focus on for primary care for dogs and cats. The local veterinarians did not want to do indigent care so asked LSU to do so. LSU said okay and focused on the LSU community. Every year there is an open house, this year 5000 people came through. Most were surprised to see what they have. They have boarded specialties in almost every area, but no neurologist, nutritionist or behaviorist. In the past a referral was required but that is not the case anymore.

Senator

Why is there no neurologist?

Margaret Coffey

We would love to have one. One of the internists specializes in it but they want a board certified person.

Senator

What about an acupuncturist?

Margaret Coffey

They now have an acupuncture person, rehab, herbal medicines, etc. They received a large grant for alternative medicine.

Senator

Do you offer plastic surgery?

Margaret Coffey

Not yet. On Oct 15 they are opening their new lobby for small animals. They are going to be building a linear accelerator facility for oncology. There is no insurance in veterinary medicine. They are lucky in the veterinary profession that liability is next to nothing right now because they cannot be sued for pain and suffering. They are working with the Dean of the LSU medical school in New Orleans to see if they can model some business practices after them. What they have is a close touch with their clientele. A lot of the United States spends about \$80 million on pet care.

Fabio Del Piero

They have a diagnostic laboratory. They can do virology and other testing.

Margaret Coffey

Feel free to give her feedback about the facility. They are ranked as the top in customer service.

Q&A Summary:

Presentation by Cliff Vannoy, President and CEO, LSU Alumni Association

In the last two and one half months the Alumni Association was dragged through a knot hole due to a lawsuit. The lawsuit dropped the Alumni association and it is only between the two persons now. The finances were audited and no errors were found. The report will be publicized. No funds were ever used to give to Dr. Roberts to give to Ms. Kahee. An audit of individual employees were done to make sure there is no repeated sexual harassment issues. For 30 years the association has grown to a large multifaceted sophisticated organization. In 1985 due to rules and regulations, the ethics commission information said that all fundraisers for LSU including all foundations had to be independent and nonprofit organizations. No university or state funds could be used to run the organizations. They have 135 Alumni Chapters all over the United States. They do raise funds for academic scholarships and awards. The chapters stretch from NY to San Diego and Miami to Seattle. There are alumni professors at LSU, 46 that are funded by them. In the late 60s they established the alumni scholars that lead to the alumni scholarship who are now flagship scholars. These students have over a 33 on the ACT and over a 4.0 average. Alumni association is covering just about anything they do at LSU. The Global Leaders scholarship gives opportunities for student to study abroad. Also there are Chancellors Alumni scholars, which helps the ten very best students to come to LSU. In 2014 they started the Rising Faculty Research award for starting professors, who receive a \$5000 stipend for their outstanding work. There will be ten new ones each year. What they are doing now that were not doing before, its has been published that there is a low participation rate at about 14% compared to other SEC schools, but those 135 alumni chapters have funds raised to help with scholarships. They give their local dues but it is never counted as a donation to LSU. They are asking alumni chapters to join members both locally and nationally so they can be counted. A few weeks ago they had a chapter leaders summit to go through training and information programs to help them know what they can do for the LSU Alumni Association. They are working to come up with a better means to get alums to help fund LSU. They updated their website for issues. Board members have been on it for about 35 years. It was important to keep continuity. They have term limits now. They have an open and honest communication with the President's office so they know the goals and objectives. They are trying to convince the President that it is time to bring back the legacy scholarship so those students of alums can get a percentage scholarship for tuition. The Alumni Association will help to build a multimillion dollar endowment to help fund that. The foundations all have different missions but they do work together. The result of that was the \$800 million Forever LSU campaign that finished in 2010. They share the same database except for the LSU Athletic Foundation. The new database will be made for all foundations to share information. All three do the Tiger Tour of about 8 stops throughout Louisiana and Houston, and they take the President, Provost and coaches and put them in front of supporters, with about 300 to 800 persons there to get message across about what LSU is trying to do. The past 30 years the LSU Alumni Association has run a traveling tigers program so students can attend away games. They work closely with student recruitment and student life and chapters go to high school

recruiting nights all over the United States. They also pay for the salary of a person in Houston to be a student recruiter, which started about 1.5 years ago. They are sponsors of LSU 100 fastest growing LSU businesses.

Q&A Summary:

Kevin Cope

Many faculty members on the LSU campus and LSU affiliated campuses are concerned about undergraduate tone. The target audience is former undergraduates. There is not much about advanced degree graduates.

Cliff Vannoy

There is no designation as to level of education, everyone is reached out to. The concept is to find a way to bring them in through entertainment and fundraising.

Senator

Has there been any consideration for a graduate scholarship?

Cliff Vannoy

We have done them before. There is a program coming through the Board of Regents that is a graduate scholarship. They are looking at moving some professorships into a graduate scholarship program. The LSU foundation is the lead on those matching scholarships, because it is state funds.

Senator

If a department wants to help you out by connecting to alums is it possible to open up the database?

Cliff Vannoy

They use an Enewsletter to touch base with those people to help you.

Lillian Bridwell Bowles

A lot is done with one to one knowledge. We are doing it now randomly with facebook, etc, but it would be easier to do it in concert with you.

Cliff Vannoy

There is a person in each college to help you connect with former students.

Lillian Bridwell Bowles

We are connected to that person in our college and the database is not good. We need to do a lot of work and connect faculty to this process.

Cliff Vannoy

We use that same database. We got a new directory of all alums and that was uploaded into the system.

Arend Van Gemmert

In that database is that only the college or also the program they graduated from? They identify with the department.

Robert Doolos

We do include the major in the information.

Cliff Vannoy

Information comes directly through the Registrar's office.

Old Business

Second Reading Faculty Senate Resolution 14-09, “Affirmation of Academic Freedom and Shared Governance at the University of Illinois and Throughout the American Public Higher Education System”, Sponsored by John Protevi, Vince LiCata, A.R.P. Ravi Rau, Michelle Masse, James Catano, Kathleen Bratton and Jeffrey Roland

Read by Jeffrey Rolan

Faculty Senate Resolution 14-09

Affirmation of Academic Freedom and Shared Governance at the University of Illinois and throughout the American Public Higher Education System

Sponsored by John Protevi; Vincent LiCata; A. R. P. “Ravi” Rau; Michelle Massé; James Catano; Kathleen Bratton; and Jeffrey Roland

Whereas academic freedom and the protection of First Amendment rights to free speech, and a commitment to fairness and transparency in all academic procedures and practices, especially those concerning faculty hires, form the foundations of the American public higher educational system;

Whereas the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) made a written offer on October 3, 2013 to Professor Steven Salaita for an appointment, with tenure, as Associate Professor [1];

Whereas Professor Salaita accepted the offer, and relying upon the common practice that the Board of Trustees approval was pro forma, a practice that thousands of university faculty have relied upon, including many here at LSU, resigned from his tenured position in the English Department at Virginia Tech University;

Whereas Chancellor Phyllis Wise of UIUC, on August 1, 2014, summarily and without faculty consultation, informed Professor Salatia that she would not forward his contract to the Board of Trustees, thereby undermining every preceding review by faculty and administrators;

Whereas news reports from several reputable news sources assert that the administrative decision of Chancellor Wise to block Professor Salaita’s employment at UIUC was a response to complaints about his postings to twitter.com;

Whereas Chancellor Wise [2] and the University of Illinois Board of Trustees [3] issued statements on August 22, 2014 introducing a vague and dangerous "civility" standard as a test of faculty behavior;

Whereas the "civility" standard is contrary to academic freedom in its content and contrary to shared governance in the process of its formulation, as those statements were produced without faculty consultation;

Whereas the AAUP’s 1940 “Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure” explicitly states that when faculty “speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship” [4];

Whereas the national AAUP office [5], the Illinois state chapter of the AAUP [6], the Campus Faculty Association of UIUC [7], the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association [8], and 60 prominent professors at UIUC [9], as well as hundreds of other academics, have publicly called upon Chancellor Wise to reinstate the offer to Professor Salaita;

Whereas the administrative revocation of Professor Salaita’s contract and subsequent statements by Chancellor Wise and the UI Board constitute a significant assault on both the principle of academic freedom and the principle of shared governance, and thereby produces a chilling effect on the ability of faculty members everywhere to speak openly on matters of public concern without fear of their jobs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University joins with our colleagues at UIUC as well as with the above-mentioned organizations and individuals to call upon Chancellor Wise and the Board of Trustees to honor the contract of Professor Salaita or to otherwise reach an equitable agreement with him;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate reaffirms LSU’s longstanding and cherished commitment to academic freedom articulated in the LSU Faculty Handbook [10].

References:

- [1]: <http://www.news-gazette.com/sites/all/files/pdf/2014/08/13/14-529.Documents.pdf>
- [2]: <http://illinois.edu/blog/view/1109/115906>
- [3]: <https://cfaillinois.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/civility-massmail.pdf>
- [4]: <http://www.aaup.org/report/1940-statement-principles-academic-freedom-and-tenure>
- [5]: <http://www.aaup.org/media-release/statement-case-steven-salaita>
- [6]: <http://academeblog.org/2014/08/06/illinois-aaup-committee-a-statement-on-steven-salaita-and-uiuc/>
- [7]: <http://cfaillinois.org/2014/08/07/cfa-statement-on-steven-salaita-and-u-of-illinois/>
- [8]: http://www.mla.org/ec_univ_illinois
- [9]: <http://www.news-gazette.com/opinion/guest-commentary/2014-08-26/ui-precluded-any-honest-debate.html>
- [10]: <http://www.lsue.edu/senate/handbook/acad.html>

Q&A Summary:

Charles Delzell

He read a handout given to senators regarding distortion of facts in the resolution. He read a handout by David Kirshner and Lawrence Smolinsky on opposition to the resolution.

Jeffery Roland

The distinction between civility and collegiality is splitting hairs. The issue as to whether or not there was a contract, there is a common practice in that not all of the I's are dotted and T's crossed before we move into a new position. Ordinarily the Performa approval of the board was all there was left to it. Some people have come here without any contracts at all. The way that the practices work there was a claim to a contract. It wasn't just the college that had approved the appointment, it had gone to the chancellor's office and there someone signed off on the document. The due process item is important. There is a procedure in place for major decisions like hiring and the entire procedures had gone through normal process until this last step. Due to pressure from donors it was stopped by Chancellor Wise. If you think it is objectionable and violates AAUP guidelines, great, bring him in and put him through the due process as a tenured faculty member. Put it through the due process. It is the idea that one person under pressure from donors can undermine the whole process. This is completely undermining the shared governance process. This is a big deal because it would set a terrible precedent for the hiring process that is in place regardless of what the guy said.

Arend Van Gemert

You say anything that happened since the 3rd of Oct 2013 to August 2014 should not be taken into consideration. What if someone murders someone, should we still hire them? Stopping that person in their tracks is the best way to handle this situation.

Jeffery Roland

If you think there is an issue with him being in a classroom, even though his track record says otherwise, then suspend him. If someone murdered someone would they be immediately dismissed? Isn't there still some sort of due process rights?

Senator

There are two contradicting documents. We do not know which is right. He checked the web and couldn't tell. The resolution wants to make sure that shared governance is respected, but that is not what it says. If it is to take input and not act then it should say that.

Jeffery Roland

Academic freedom is mentioned in it, but it does not automatically lead to shared governance. What is interesting is that it caught the eyes of professors across the country.

Senator

He does not want to make a judgment on the gentleman. What we stand up for is how business is conducted in the university environment. I do not see civility is an issue. We are talking about whether decision should be unilateral or come from another base.

Jeffery Roland

The idea here may be that the first thing we should do is correct the wrong and reinstate Salaita, then go through due process. This will correct the misstep in the unilateral action by Chancellor Wise.

Austin Allen

I am concerned with number 4 of Delzell's handout. It does get into a larger conversation about ideals of academic freedom. What happened to the other people that handled the earlier process?

Jeffrey Roland

They were not consulted. That is part of the complaint. There was no consultation with the faculty. Nine or 11 departments have voted no confidence now in Chancellor Wise and there are 1,000s of scholars who have signed boycotts of the University of Illinois and 600 who have signed a petition.

Lawrence Smolinsky

He would like to say something about the technical issue. He cannot imagine a person being asked to resign his position when he gets an offer. They are saying he was untenured. It is muddled about what is being said.

Jeffery Roland

He believes it was a formal offer, whether it arises to a contract is a different issue.

Lawrence Smolinsky

A contract has the signature of the chancellor.

John DiTusa

The chancellor has to sign off on the process. It is putting it in the hands of the chancellor to make the decision. He does not understand that there was a contract and that he was already a faculty there. If you have to have that signature, then you have to have that signature. It is not clear that the chancellor signed off on it.

John Provati

We are not arguing about the legal right, we are asking that the faculty senate defend our academic freedom and are pointing to the principle not legal issues.

Austin Allen

He heard the debate over contract and no contract. That is not the issue. He heard it in terms of when you move. We are talking about is a trust factor between the faculty and administration in terms of making a decision. Something fell apart in engaging the faculty in how to deal with this. That is where it has caught the national attention of faculty. We owe it to ourselves to find out what really is going on here.

John Provati

After the board meeting, the letter of offer was signed off by Chancellor Wise and her second in command, all the way up to July 23. It is true that the board had not signed. The principle of the matter is what he wants to discuss.

Lillian Bridwell-Bowles

Trust is the key word. In the last few years verbal offers have been given to faculty all over the country. The person called asked for two weeks and they call back and ask for the decision. There is a lot of negotiation that goes on before the chancellor knows about it. If that happens, then what are we to say as a faculty senate if in the interim of those negotiations some donor looks at facebook or twitter and does not like what they see? It looks like someone with a lot of money did not like what they saw so the whole process was stopped. One thing that she urges us to take seriously is the negotiating power of chairs and departments to deal with offers on behalf of the faculty.

David Donze

We are looking at an extraordinary issue. The Board of Trustees has put themselves into a matter that faculty and the university handles themselves. Is this legitimate for a board to do or do they overstep their boundaries? The university has been paid for by the people of the state. They have set structures for university government and that structure includes a Board of Supervisors that is not comprised of academics. Why is it that this prudence exists? What is their right to interrupt our goals? Their charge is not to run the university but to ensure that the university is functioning for the people of the state. They found disrespectful and malicious speech. The Board of Trustees said not it is not in the best interests of the university and they have acted appropriately in this matter and did what they are supposed to do.

Senator

It is not a matter of whether legalities were followed. We have to make sure we know the principles, we have to balance trust with malicious speech. How much do we care about malicious speech?

John Provati

Part of the issue in this case is the initial wording of incivility.

Guest

That word was included but it is not the major focus.

John Provati

The claim was that Salaita tweets would affect their students. There were 10 years of student evaluations and there were no negatives. What is the significance of the tweets relative to the classroom?

Arend Van Gemmert

Through the 29th of June the tweets are not a good environment for students. Gaza did not happen until after those tweets. He spent 6 or 7 days reading over 300 tweets. The tweets were uncivil in how he is addressing the President and people who disagree with him. He thinks that his extramural speech would legitimize firing him if said things exactly like he was saying.

John Provati

Are you saying that your extramural speech justifies that you be fired?

Arend Van Gemmert

I think that is true.

Guest

A Baton Rouge cop who sent a private message to his girlfriend about how he feels about African Americans was fired. The community did not like it and we thought he should lose the right. This professor used a public cyberspace graffiti wall so that everyone could see what he wanted to say. There is no problem with his freedom of speech. He is not comfortable with him staying and students not being able to express their opinions in the classroom. You start out talking about freedom of speech and no one said he couldn't say it and then you talk about academic freedom. This is not an academic freedom; there is no one to challenge him. If the student expressed an opinion different he would wish them dead.

John Provati

It is a tendentious reading that that was a wish of death. You are missed quoting it and the dates are wrong. There is no evidence that he has treated anyone unfairly in the classroom.

Ramachandran Vaidyanathan

We are missing the point. We are trying to debate a resolution. If trust was violated, it is irrelevant what the professor did. It should not matter what the tweets were, it is more important about how the process happened. I do not see academic freedom in this. He does not think he was a faculty member of the university. It is maybe a matter of trust so people do not feel they can hire him now. What if someone really said great things and lost their position, we should be saying the same thing. It is about the process not the gentleman.

Dorian Dorado

We have a right to express ourselves. What we are deciding is whether the university has a right to withdraw an offer from someone based on what they say. They have a right to. They may later realize they do not want that person to represent LSU. There are certain things we have to do as faculty to represent what LSU stands for.

John Provati

For the whereas that mentions the 1940s AAUP statement, citizens can make it clear that they are representing themselves and not the university. Salaita did not stay his statements as a representative of the university.

Lillian Bridwell-Bowles

I would not want that person in front of my class today, she is teaching them to be more rational than this person was. What we need to discuss is the process, when do faculty, heads and deans get consulted and when can they withdraw an offer. It is about faculty governance at this institution. We are missing the big point about what our role is.

Senator

If it is indeed possible to have an offer rescinded up until the time that the Board of Supervisors sign the document, we need to better inform the candidates that there is a possibility that you could be resigning a job and lose health insurance until we wait for the board to approve it. We need to tell them to not resign until the offer is approved by the board.

Lawrence Smolinsky

If people are still considering voting yes on this, and the AAUP speech is true, they must understand the speech. He does not think it is an issue of academic freedom; the board is acting as they should. The academic freedom statement is being taken out of context. Charles Delzell followed up with 'but their special position in the community has special obligations'. There are disciplinary methods to deal with that. The type of things he tweeted included some that are anti-Semitic, comparing Jews to Nazis. He summarized some of the tweets.

Guest

Regarding the issue with no other problems in his classroom, in regards to the cop saying certain things and he never killed anybody, the Baton Rouge community said that this is not our guy.

Mandi Lopez

I agree with those who have indicated that there are two points, freedom of speech and behavior of the professor as grounds for dismissal. Also the process of hiring and who is involved and how unilateral are the decisions. Lack of general agreement is related to these two disparaging issues. This may not be decided upon a single case. Maybe you can revise and highlight those points that we all agree on.

John Provati

He registered a complaint about the handout given by Delzell. This is the second reading he would like to have more time to review the documents.

Kevin Cope

We can vote on it or move to table the resolution.

Senator

Move to table.

Vote: Majority vote to table with a few nays. No abstentions.

Second Reading Faculty Senate Resolution 14-10, "Halting the Erosion of Health Plans Administered by the Office of Group Benefits",
Introduced at the request of Southeastern Louisiana University Faculty Senate President James Kirylo and at the request of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senate

Read by Kevin Cope

Faculty Senate Resolution 14-10

Halting the Erosion of Health Plans Administered by the Office of Group Benefits (OGB)

Introduced at the request of Southeastern Louisiana University Faculty Senate President James Kirylo and at the request of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates

WHEREAS the executive branch of Louisiana government is revising those state health insurance plans that are administered by the Office of Group Benefits (“OGB”) so as to shift more costs to employees, whether by increasing out-of-pocket costs, imposing higher deductibles, assessing prescription fees, or multiplying service exclusions;

WHEREAS estimates indicate that these proposed changes will increase out-of-pocket costs to employees and retirees by approximately forty-seven percent, an unexpected and disproportionate increase that is unjust to and that imposes an extreme hardship on present and former public servants;

WHEREAS the proposed policy changes will result in state workers and retirees paying more and getting less, in startling contrast to and inversion of the “do more with less” motto of the current state administration;

WHEREAS the proposed changes will inflict economic damage on state workers throughout Louisiana, especially those in unclassified or similar positions who have few advocates and who lack other means to defend themselves, and will counteract those small raises or cost-of-living adjustments that employees or retirees have received in recent years;

WHEREAS no satisfactory explanation has been given for the astounding erosion of the OGB reserve fund from six-hundred eighty million dollars to approximately two-hundred twenty-five million dollars in only two years;

WHEREAS the reduction of viable choices among benefit plans will further diminish the ability of Louisiana’s colleges and universities to recruit and retain faculty and to remain competitive with other states in either higher education or in the industries with which higher education collaborates;

WHEREAS the sudden decay of the OGB medical insurance offerings is likely to trigger a rush to transfer to the LSU First plan, a rush that threatens to unsettle the LSU plan and to create costly administrative burdens;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LSU Faculty Senate joins with its colleagues in the Southeastern Louisiana University Faculty Senate in opposing the proposed changes to the OGB-administered health plans, at least until proper studies and audits have been completed, and in warning that the proposed changes will be extraordinarily harmful for state workers and retirees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the LSU Faculty Senate joins with the Southeastern Louisiana University Senate in cautioning that so dramatic a change in the affordability of health plans for the many thousands of voters and taxpayers who comprise the staff of Louisiana higher education institutions will harm both the economy and the people of our state.

Q&A Summary:

Ken McMillin

In the 5th whereas replace with ‘no acceptable explanation’.

Vote on amendment: Unanimously approved.

Charles Delzell

Last month referred to editorial in paper that day addressing some of those points, is it worth rebutting?

Kevin Cope

The first editorial by Kristy Nichols stated it was necessary because of depletion of the reserve account and some will face smaller instead of larger costs for some plans. The new limited selection of plan has low premiums that have less providers. Some are regionally limited. This was addressed by Livingston parish and mentioned a 47% increase. There was no need for faculty governance people to jump back in a fray. Nichols position was misleading. If change was not made the reserve fund would be depleted in three weeks. There was brisk questioning in repose to her statement.

Vote on resolution: unanimously passed.

New Business

None.

Fereydoun Aghazadeh moved to adjourn, many seconds.

Adjourned at 5:15 pm